

nomination was confirmed with near unanimity under Senate Democratic leadership in 2001, Senator LOTT's spokesperson indicated that Senator LOTT's solitary opposition was to underscore his position that "any appointment of federal judges during a recess should be opposed."

PROGRESS OF FILLING JUDICIAL VACANCIES

The American people understand that Democrats in the Senate have shown great restraint and extensive cooperation in the confirmation of 171 of this President's judicial nominations. Republicans are loath to acknowledge that cooperation but with it this President has been achieving record numbers of judicial confirmations and we have reduced judicial vacancies to the lowest level in decades. Despite the unprecedented political upheavals and the aftermath of September 11, as of today, the Senate has already confirmed more judges than were confirmed during President Reagan's entire first 4-year term. Indeed, at this point in President Clinton's last term, only 140 judges had been confirmed, as compared to the 171 confirmed and two recess appointed by this President.

The President's recent actions are unnecessarily divisive and harmful. We have already achieved much. If the President would work with the Senate, we could achieve so much more.

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2003

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about the need for hate crimes legislation. On May 1, 2003, Senator KENNEDY and I introduced the Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act, a bill that would add new categories to current hate crimes law, sending a signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society.

One such crime occurred in Tillamook, a small town on the Oregon coast. On February 11, 1999, James Ash, 48, and Kevin Hawthorn, 25, were charged with intimidation and assault for allegedly beating a man because of his sexual orientation.

I believe that Government's first duty is to defend its citizens, to defend them against the harms that come out of hate. The Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act is a symbol that can become substance. I believe that by passing this legislation and changing current law, we can change hearts and minds as well.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

IN MEMORY OF MARY FRANCES DIAZ

• Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, I would like to set aside a moment to reflect on the life of Ms. Mary Frances Diaz upon her passing in February. Mary was a woman who made a remarkable contribution toward improving the lives of

refugee women, children, and adolescents around the world. She was a truly selfless woman who dedicated her life to others.

Mary was born in Newport News, VA. She spent her childhood in Pottstown, PA, before going to Brown University, where she graduated with a major in international relations in 1982. After working for several years at WPVI television news station in Philadelphia, she returned to school and received a master's degree in international education from Harvard University in 1988.

But Mary's passion and life mission was refugees. While she was still at Harvard she began working for Catholic Charities in Boston, and upon graduation became director of refugee and immigration services there.

In 1994, at the age of 33, Mary became executive director of the Women's Commission for Refugee Women and Children, an organization that helps some of the most vulnerable people on Earth. For 10 years, Mary traveled to the world's trouble spots, dodging minefields, tsetse flies, and wars on her mission to help refugee women and children reclaim their lives. She went on fact-finding missions to places such as Serbia, Angola, Rwanda, Nepal, Pakistan, Haiti, and Colombia to talk to uprooted women and children firsthand.

Back in the United States and in Geneva, she would plead their cases before the United Nations and lobby lawmakers and relief agencies to improve their conditions. She also fought for the rights of people claiming asylum in the United States.

Her advocacy led to concrete results. After she reported on the situation in Bosnia, the Clinton administration provided a fund to help refugee women rebuild their lives. During a visit to Tanzania, she got the rules changed to allow Burundian women as well as men to distribute food to fellow refugees. As a result, many more women and their children got their food rations. After a visit to Afghanistan in 2002, Mary initiated a fund for programs for Afghan women.

Under Mary's leadership, the Women's Commission grew from a small organization with a staff of 4 and a budget of \$425,000 to one with more than 20 staff and a budget of \$4 million. She believed the international community had a responsibility to help women and children who had been uprooted by war and persecution, and in her quiet, elegant way, used her eloquence and strong persuasive powers to persuade policy makers to change policies and programs.

Mary, who was 43 years old, died of pancreatic cancer. She leaves behind her longtime partner, Tom Ferguson of New York City; her mother, Bertha Diaz of Pottstown, PA; two brothers, Dr. Philip Diaz of Columbus, OH, and Dr. Joseph Diaz of Barrington, RI; and two sisters, Theresa Diaz of Reading, PA, and Bernadette Diaz of Oak Park, IL. She also leaves behind innumerable friends and colleagues.

Mary's legacy will live on in the lives of the refugees around the world whose lives she helped improve and in the work of the Women's Commission for Refugee Women and Children. I rise today to commemorate Mary Diaz, to celebrate her too-short life and to offer her family, friends, and colleagues our support. She will be sorely missed.●

IN HONOR OF RITA DOLAN SELLAR

• Mr. REED. Mr. President, on Tuesday, February 24, 2004, an extraordinary resident of Newport, RI celebrated a monumental achievement, her 100th birthday.

Rita Dolan Sellar has led a full and exceptional life. She was born February 24, 1904, to Clarence Dolan and Rosalie Brown Dolan. She had two sisters, Rose and Alexandra.

As a young lady, Rita attended Foxcroft School in Virginia, where she is now the oldest living alumna. Later she married Norrie Sellar, and they traveled extensively throughout the world.

Rita and Norrie had five children: Daphne, Norrie, Rosalie, Owen, and Alexandra.

Rita was an accomplished and bold horsewoman, who in the 1930s founded and played on the first women's polo team, in Aiken, SC, and rode in fox hunts, steeplechase races, and jumping contests.

She was also an active sailor, who kept sailboats in Newport Harbor, and often sailed with her sister—one of America's first and most capable women sailors.

Her home in Newport, "Seaweed," has hosted five generations of the family, innumerable cheerful parties and dinners, and an extensive array of friends, cousins, in-laws, and visitors. She is the oldest member of Newport's Spouting Rock Beach Association.

In addition to her 5 children, she has 15 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren, as well as 3 step-grandchildren and 6 step-great-grandchildren, of which she is the beloved, affectionate, and patient matriarch.

Rita Dolan Sellar has led a successful and remarkable life as evident by her many achievements and, more importantly, her large, loving and successful family which includes former Rhode Island Attorney General Sheldon Whitehouse.

I would like to congratulate Rita on her 100th birthday. This extraordinary moment is not about the number of years she has lived but the accomplishments she has made during those years and the excitement, pride, love, and joy she has brought to her many family and friends through her life. I wish Rita a happy birthday and many more.●

MEASURES REFERRED

The Committee on Energy and Natural Resources was discharged from